

Washington State Department of Transportation
Office of Equal Opportunity

and

Washington State Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises

2009 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Certification Program Review

**July 28, 29, and 30, 2009 (DBE File Review)
August 11, 2009 (DBE Certification Program Review)**

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO), conducted the annual Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Certification Program Review with the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) on August 11, 2009. Prior to conducting the Program Review, the review team spent three days, July 28, 29 and 30, 2009, conducting a DBE certification file review at OMWBE.

The DBE file review team consisted of Eileen Oliver, OEO D/MWBE Program Supervisor and Fatema Aboutalep, OEO Contract Compliance Specialist. Christine Whitehead, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), External Program Manager joined the file review team. Participating in the DBE Certification program review were Eileen Oliver, Brenda Nnambi, Director of OEO, Jodi Petersen, Division Civil Rights Program Manager with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Monica McCallum, Equal Opportunity Specialist with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

OMWBE was represented during the review by Cynthia Cooper, Director, and Juan Huey-Ray, Certification Manager.

At WSDOT's request, and with the approval of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), OMWBE has been designated to administer the Unified Certification Program (UCP) for the State of Washington. Therefore, WSDOT OEO contracts out their DBE Certification Program to OMWBE. OMWBE is also responsible for administration of the Washington State Minority and Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Certification Program.

Overview

The purpose of the DBE Certification Program Review is to ensure OMWBE is administering the Program in compliance with federal regulations, 49 CFR Part 26 and Part 23, the Washington State UCP Agreement, and the Interagency Agreement (IA) between WSDOT and OMWBE.

Fryer-Knowles, Inc. - The last action completed on this firm was an Annual Update.

Type of Review: Annual Update
Review Date: 11/17/2008
Last Business Taxes: 2007
Last PNW: 3/03/2006
Last Onsite: 10/26/1993

Issues/Concerns

There were no certification issues with this firm. An updated PNW Affidavit needs to be collected and an updated onsite needs to be conducted at the next review.

Grady Excavating, Inc. – The last action completed on this firm was certification.

Type of Review: Certification
Review Date: 10/29/2008
Last Business Taxes: None (new business)
Last PNW: 11/01/2007
Last Onsite: 9/17/2008

Issues/Concerns

There are several issues with the certification of this firm:

- The capitalization of the business is questionable.
- There is no clear explanation of where the money originated to acquire business equipment.
- Owner has no related trucking experience/expertise.
- Owner does not possess a CDL.
- Firm was formerly denied DBE certification.
- Firm was later certified for "Equipment Rental/Leasing".
- Firm was then certified for "Dump Trucking"

The reviewer believes this firm was not eligible for DBE certification when it was granted and should therefore be decertified.

Guido Perla & Associates, Inc. - The last action completed on this firm was Graduation from the DBE program.

Type of Review:
Review Date: 1/07/2009
Last Business Taxes: 2007
Last PNW:
Last Onsite: 10/24/2007